

tions is included in this book, there is no sound basis to make any judgement about his scientific standing.

What is the point of such a book? As far as the underlying aspects of personal relationships are concerned, the person honoured might derive some satisfaction. But beyond this, is something of the programmatic sum of Swiss development co-operation really to be found in this publication?

The book contains 15 contributions of a most diverse quality. Those written by people hailing from academic institutions are mostly pieces hastily put together and/or based on material and research findings much better presented elsewhere. This is the usually unpleasant side of "Festschriften". It is for this reason that I refrain from giving the names of these authors; they deserve to be read at the proper places.

On the other hand, most of the contributions written by the so-called "practitioners" of development co-operation shed some light on the Swiss type of co-operation: What is the proper place of the "partner" both in project implementation and evaluation? How can the socio-cultural values and realities better be incorporated and considered in such programmes? Seen from this angle, it is less the general texts in the book which are stimulating; the insights come more from the case studies. Just to name three: A. Henz, an architect and planner, on cultural dimensions of architecture in Tunisia; R. Steppacher, an economist on the "paradox of health" in Kerala; R. Baumgartner, a regional representative of the Swiss Development Directorate (within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) on the Mysore bullocks, grazing grounds (*kavals*), *kavalgars* and *shervergars* (herdsmen). These case studies are really delightful reading.

To sum up: not at all a path-breaking book, more a mosaic of raclette, pizzas and apple-pies cooked in the charming kitchen of Swiss development co-operation. Mr. Menzi will doubtless have enjoyed it.

*Hans F. Illy*

MAGNUS MÖRNER/THOMMY SVENSSON (eds.), *The History of the Third World in Nordic Research*. (Acta Regiae Societatis Scientiarum et Litterarum Gothoburgensis, Humaniora 25). Göteborg: Kungl. Vetenskaps- och Vitterhets-Samhället, 1986. 201 p., SEK 90.- (ISBN 91-85252-36-0)

Even if a non-Scandinavian does happen to have regular contact with his colleagues in Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland, he will not pretend to

have an intimate knowledge of what is going on in their respective field of research. This is due to the simple fact that much is written in the respective national languages (especially at Masters Level, some journals) and is thus not accessible to outsiders. Fortunately, in order to avoid any misunderstanding, Scandinavians are much more used to publishing larger works (from doctoral theses upwards) in English than, say, Germans.

Seen from this angle, such a compilation is welcome. It is based on the presentations to a working group ("history of Third World countries") within the 19th Congress of Nordic Historians held at Odense, Denmark, in 1984. A special effort was made to translate them into English.

The book is organized in three chapters: Africa, Asia, Latin America, each of them subdivided into two parts: four reports, by each of the four countries, on the state of research, and two to three papers on most diverse subjects. This country approach leaves it to the reader to put together, in an additional effort, what has been written in Scandinavia on a specific country in Asia etc. or on a specific topic. Happily, this effort is limited but rewarding.

It cannot be the objective of this short review to give a detailed account of the specific themes covered in Scandinavian research on the history of developing countries. In fact, the range is astonishingly broad, from the "Batavia trade via Copenhagen" to "Korea in Mongolian sources". By the way, to demarcate history from neighbouring disciplines is not an easy task.

At one point, the effort towards completeness went a bit too far, e.g. on p. 87: "For some reason, Professor S. opted not even to mention ... his own contributions ...". Where else does one encounter such expressions of modesty in the scientific world?

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JÜRGEN RÜLAND (ed.): *Urban Government and Development in Asia. Readings in Subnational Development.* (Materialien zu Entwicklung und Politik, 33). München/Köln/London: Weltforum Verlag, 1988. 270 pages, DM 49.-

Urban government research in developing (Asian) countries, the topic of this book, is directly related to the general problem of – uneven – spatial (regional) development within a country – a specific feature of most of these countries. The obstacles towards achieving a more "balanced regional development" are manifold; in their interlinkages these obstacles become a real dilemma: